



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

VOL. 33

NOVEMBER 22, 1918

No. 47

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.

PREVALENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In the Public Health Reports of November 8 and 15 were published tables presenting in as brief form as possible a statistical statement of the influenza epidemic in the United States. In the present issue this table has been brought up to date by including the week ended November 16 and by making changes in previous figures in accordance with more recent information. Only those States for which data were received during the past week are included.¹

The table is based on telegraphic and mail reports to the Public Health Service. The mortality figures for cities have been checked wherever possible with reports to the Bureau of the Census. It should be kept in mind that the statement is far from being complete for any locality or State, particularly with respect to cases of influenza. Influenza was not made a reportable disease until the epidemic was well under way in many localities. In perhaps the great majority of localities where the prevalence of the disease was severe, physicians were too busy to make accurate and prompt reports to local health authorities. Furthermore, it must be obvious that the complete and regular collection and forwarding of reports from a large proportion of counties and towns in practically every State was almost impossible under the extraordinary conditions that prevailed. For these reasons city or State totals for any given week are not exact or even more than approximately accurate. In some cases there are reasons to believe that they are far from accurate, and in nearly all instances, it is believed, the reported figures properly may be considered as considerably below the actual ones. Estimates have been employed in a few instances, but when estimates were necessary those reported by local or State health authorities have been used whenever possible.

With these limitations in mind, the following table should be used only as a rough index of the course of the epidemic in certain sections of the country. It is presented as a preliminary compilation of such data as are now available, since the present data are being supplemented with information that, it is believed, will be more accurate and complete.

¹ In order to assist States in furnishing reports of influenza, the Public Health Service authorized the sending of daily telegraphic reports of influenza at the expense of the Government. These were usually sent by the cities to the States, which telegraphed the compiled information to the bureau. Owing to the decline in the epidemic in most parts of the country, the sending of such telegrams was stopped early in November.

**Cases of Influenza and Deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia (All Forms) as
Reported to the United States Public Health Service.**

NEW ENGLAND STATES.

| | Week ending— | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | Sept. 14. | Sept. 21. | Sept. 28. | Oct. 5. | Oct. 12. | Oct. 19. | Oct. 26. | Nov. 2. | Nov. 9. | Nov. 16. |
| Massachusetts: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boston—Deaths..... | 46 | 265 | 775 | 1,214 | 1,027 | 589 | 226 | 137 | 76 | 47 |
| Cambridge..... | 7 | 4 | 105 | 140 | 115 | 63 | 21 | 19 | 5 | 9 |
| Fall River—Deaths..... | | 9 | 20 | 97 | 201 | 192 | 97 | 40 | 24 | 14 |
| Lowell—Deaths..... | 1 | 8 | 32 | 93 | 141 | 116 | 84 | 30 | 8 | 8 |

MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| New York: | | | | | | | | | | |
| New York City— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | 127 | 1,294 | 7,197 | 21,059 | 32,884 | 30,736 | 27,564 | 3,821 | ..... |
| Deaths..... | | | 161 | 739 | 2,082 | 4,217 | 5,158 | 4,402 | 2,277 | 1,050 |
| Pennsylvania: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entire State (excluding | | | | | | | | | | |
| Philadelphia)—Deaths..... | | | | 573 | 1,765 | 5,026 | 5,210 | 6,270 | 5,206 | 3,521 |
| Philadelphia—Deaths..... | | | | 1,625 | 3,060 | 4,218 | 2,341 | 1,203 | 375 | 164 |

EAST NORTH CENTRAL STATES.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|----|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Indiana: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entire State (excluding | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indianapolis)—Cases..... | | | | | | 2,160 | 9,666 | 6,081 | 5,714 | 4,568 |
| Indianapolis— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | | 1,510 | 1,881 | 1,577 | 605 | 330 | ..... |
| Deaths..... | 3 | 6 | 10 | 24 | 46 | 128 | 115 | 86 | 58 | 89 |
| Illinois: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chicago— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | 2,210 | 7,722 | 12,183 | 11,846 | 14,947 | ..... | ..... |
| Deaths..... | | | 91 | 417 | 1,047 | 2,106 | 2,367 | 1,470 | 738 | 390 |
| Wisconsin: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Milwaukee— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | | | 2,117 | 2,056 | 918 | 1,227 | ..... |
| Deaths..... | 4 | 5 | 13 | 15 | 69 | 113 | 175 | 125 | 95 | 79 |

WEST NORTH CENTRAL STATES.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|----|------------------|--------|--------|--------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Iowa: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entire State— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | | 1,062 | 17,040 | 21,117 | 5,025 | 3,424 | 3,279 |
| Deaths..... | | | | | 13 | 115 | 184 | 112 | ..... | ..... |
| Des Moines— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | | 562 | 751 | 542 | 112 | 204 | 16 |
| Deaths..... | | | | | 7 | 13 | 8 | 9 | ..... | ..... |
| Missouri: | | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Louis— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | (⁶) | | | 1,904 | 4,043 | 3,890 | 2,376 | 2,719 | 1,900 |
| Deaths..... | | | | | 86 | 186 | 233 | 257 | 229 | 223 |
| Kansas City—Deaths..... | 5 | | 10 | 37 | 96 | 168 | 193 | 197 | 138 | 80 |
| Nebraska: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of localities re- | | | | | | 66 | 118 | (⁶) | (⁶) | (⁶) |
| porting..... | | | | | | 17,000 | 20,835 | 13,104 | 7,540 | 6,400 |
| Cases..... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deaths..... | | | | | | 1,495 | 276 | 136 | 109 | 109 |
| Omaha—Deaths..... | 1 | | 2 | 7 | 68 | 160 | 147 | 94 | 117 | 48 |
| Kansas: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of localities re- | | | | | | | | | | |
| porting..... | | | | (⁶) | 123 | 126 | 92 | (⁶) | (⁶) | (⁶) |
| Cases..... | | | 81 | 1,327 | 10,569 | 14,592 | 12,154 | 8,205 | 8,924 | 6,080 |

¹ For 4 days.

² For 5 days.

³ Influenza only.

⁴ For less than 100 localities.

⁵ No outbreak reported on Sept. 19.

⁶ Entire State.

⁷ Estimated.

Cases of Influenza and Deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia (All Forms) as Reported to the United States Public Health Service—Continued.

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES.

| | Week ending— | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| | Sept. 14. | Sept. 21. | Sept. 28. | Oct. 5. | Oct. 12. | Oct. 19. | Oct. 26. | Nov. 2. | Nov. 9. | Nov. 16. |
| Maryland: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | 1,713 | 5,302 | 24,300 | ..... | 10,300 | 6,376 | 3,220 | 4,929 |
| Baltimore— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | 3,205 | 9,300 | 5,227 | 2,709 | 609 | 85 | 120 |
| Deaths..... | 7 | 5 | 19 | 117 | 563 | 1,357 | 1,073 | 397 | 147 | 51 |
| District of Columbia: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | 21,151 | 9,708 | 8,105 | 3,921 | 1,679 | 400 | 394 |
| Deaths..... | 10 | | 38 | 181 | 547 | 606 | 372 | 154 | 45 | 42 |
| West Virginia: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Charleston— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | 7 | 94 | 892 | 718 | 345 | 182 | 67 | 88 |
| Deaths..... | | | | 2 | 29 | 32 | 74 | 50 | 19 | 11 |
| South Carolina: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Columbia—Cases..... | | | 2 | 1,253 | 4,427 | 1,500 | 474 | 87 | 6 | 13 |
| Greenville— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | 25 | 225 | 1,615 | 631 | 613 | 166 | 3 | 4 |
| Deaths..... | | | | | | | 5 | | | |
| Spartanburg—Cases..... | | | 7 | 59 | 188 | 299 | 246 | 190 | 49 | 108 |
| Georgia: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Augusta—Cases..... | | | 3 | 34 | 371 | 337 | 239 | 254 | 153 | 226 |
| Atlanta— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | 14 | 836 | 1,594 | 598 | 368 | 134 | 124 |
| Deaths..... | | 7 | 4 | | 30 | 81 | 101 | 45 | 34 | 32 |
| Columbus—Cases..... | | | | 1 | 450 | 828 | 590 | 389 | 163 | 137 |

EAST SOUTH CENTRAL STATES.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|----|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Tennessee: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Memphis—Deaths..... | | | | | 80 | 182 | 165 | 71 | 29 | 17 |
| Nashville—Deaths..... | 2 | | 3 | 5 | 129 | 193 | 127 | 54 | 53 | 15 |
| Alabama: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Birmingham— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | | 5,000 | 2,444 | 1,959 | 774 | ..... | 220 |
| Deaths..... | 2 | 2 | 5 | 17 | 61 | 110 | 135 | 85 | 46 | 46 |

WEST SOUTH CENTRAL STATES.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Arkansas: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Little Rock—Cases..... | | | 33 | 1,098 | 3,557 | 2,844 | 506 | 195 | 94 | 64 |
| Louisiana: | | | | | | | | | | |
| State—Cases..... | | | 11,900 | ..... | 15,494 | 47,062 | 50,859 | 35,205 | 13,607 | 6,714 |
| New Orleans— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | | 7,641 | 17,070 | 13,810 | 4,225 | 724 | ..... |
| Deaths..... | | | 3 | 29 | 127 | 447 | 813 | 371 | 158 | 76 |
| Oklahoma: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of localities re- | | | | | | | | | | |
| porting..... | | | | 24 | ..... | ..... | 28 | (4) | 23 | (4) |
| Cases..... | | | | 1,249 | ..... | 20,019 | 16,290 | 5,511 | 2,650 | 433 |
| Deaths..... | | | | | | | | 311 | | |
| Oklahoma City— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | | | | 383 | 120 | 41 | 12 |
| Deaths..... | | | | | 81 | 79 | 52 | 40 | 9 | 8 |
| Texas: | | | | | | | | | | |
| El Paso—Deaths..... | | | | | 25 | 108 | 184 | 82 | 50 | 15 |

MOUNTAIN STATES.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Colorado: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Denver County—Deaths..... | | | | | 89 | 250 | 240 | 177 | 162 | 119 |

1 Total for September.
2 For 5 days.
3 Estimated.

4 For entire State.
5 Epidemic stated to be probably at height.
6 For 4 days.

Cases of Influenza and Deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia (All Forms) as Reported to the United States Public Health Service—Continued.

PACIFIC STATES.

| | Week ending— | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| | Sept. 14. | Sept. 21. | Sept. 28. | Oct. 5. | Oct. 12. | Oct. 19. | Oct. 26. | Nov. 2. | Nov. 9. | Nov. 16. |
| Washington: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Seattle— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | | 2,652 | 2,169 | 2,215 | 2,181 | 1,600 | ..... |
| Deaths..... | | | | 3 | 33 | 77 | 158 | 104 | 85 | 69 |
| Oregon: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entire State— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | (1) | | | 2,330 | 2,745 | 3,760 | 4,615 | 2,220 |
| Deaths..... | | | | | | 32 | 122 | 222 | 204 | 112 |
| Portland— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | | | | 879 | 1,119 | 1,354 | 2,092 | 1,126 |
| Deaths..... | | | | | | 15 | 86 | 142 | 156 | 87 |
| California: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entire State—Cases..... | | | 57 | 505 | 4,501 | 28,315 | 42,934 | 27,000 | 20,000 | 9,791 |
| San Francisco— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases..... | | | 10 | 26 | 486 | 4,108 | 8,682 | 7,168 | 4,302 | ..... |
| Deaths..... | 6 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 19 | 130 | 553 | 738 | 414 | 198 |

¹ For 3 days.² No cases to report.³ For 6 days.⁴ For 4 days.

Number of Deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia (All Forms) for Corresponding Weeks, After the Beginning of the 1918 Epidemic, Compared for Large Cities.¹

| City. | Population. | Week preceding epidemic. | Week of epidemic. | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|
| | | | First. | Second. | Thirdd. | Fourth. | Fifth. | Sixth. | Seventh. | Eighth. |
| Philadelphia..... | 1,735,514 | 76 | 706 | 2,637 | 4,597 | 3,021 | 1,203 | 375 | 164 | ..... |
| Baltimore..... | 594,637 | 19 | 117 | 563 | 1,537 | 1,073 | 397 | 147 | 51 | ..... |
| New Orleans..... | 377,010 | 29 | 144 | 624 | 682 | 333 | 158 | 76 | ..... | ..... |
| Washington..... | 370,000 | 3 ³ | 181 | 547 | 606 | 372 | 154 | 55 | ..... | 42 |
| Nashville..... | 118,136 | 5 | 129 | 193 | 127 | 54 | 53 | 15 | ..... | ..... |
| Boston..... | 767,813 | 46 | 265 | 775 | 1,216 | 1,027 | 599 | 126 | 137 | 76 |
| San Francisco..... | 471,023 | 19 | 130 | 552 | 738 | 414 | 198 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Fall River..... | 129,828 | 9 | 20 | 97 | 201 | 192 | 97 | 40 | 24 | 14 |
| Richmond..... | 158,792 | 4 | 41 | 131 | 177 | 123 | 71 | 28 | 23 | 8 |
| Lowell..... | 114,366 | 8 | 32 | 93 | 141 | 116 | 84 | 30 | ..... | 8 |
| Cambridge..... | 114,293 | 4 | 105 | 140 | 115 | 63 | 21 | 19 | 5 | 9 |
| New Haven..... | 152,275 | 2 | 15 | 36 | 77 | 152 | 183 | 168 | 82 | 48 |
| Memphis..... | 151,877 | ..... | 80 | 182 | 166 | 71 | 29 | 17 | ..... | ..... |
| Dayton..... | 128,939 | 5 | 31 | 134 | 137 | 115 | 67 | 21 | ..... | ..... |
| Oakland..... | 206,405 | 3 | 18 | 42 | 138 | 237 | 157 | 55 | ..... | ..... |
| Cleveland..... | 692,250 | 40 | 168 | 453 | 682 | 524 | 351 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Chicago..... | 2,547,201 | 91 | 417 | 1,047 | 2,105 | 2,367 | 1,470 | 738 | 390 | ..... |
| New York..... | 5,737,492 | 191 | 733 | 2,121 | 4,237 | 5,201 | 4,402 | 2,277 | 1,050 | ..... |
| Omaha..... | 177,777 | 7 | 68 | 160 | 147 | 84 | 117 | 48 | ..... | ..... |
| Rochester..... | 264,714 | 6 | 36 | 102 | 213 | 209 | 104 | 46 | ..... | ..... |
| Louisville..... | 240,808 | 14 | 92 | 180 | 181 | 69 | 58 | 39 | ..... | ..... |
| Birmingham..... | 189,716 | 5 | 17 | 61 | 110 | 133 | 85 | 46 | 46 | ..... |
| Kansas City..... | 305,816 | 10 | 37 | 96 | 168 | 193 | 197 | 138 | 80 | ..... |
| Denver..... | 268,439 | 19 | 59 | 139 | 147 | 108 | 101 | 68 | ..... | ..... |
| Columbus..... | 220,135 | 10 | 28 | 73 | 117 | 94 | 50 | 36 | ..... | ..... |
| Atlanta..... | 196,144 | 7 | 30 | 81 | 101 | 45 | 34 | 22 | ..... | ..... |
| Indianapolis..... | 283,622 | 10 | 24 | 46 | 128 | 115 | 84 | 58 | ..... | ..... |
| Milwaukee..... | 445,008 | 15 | 69 | 113 | 175 | 125 | 95 | 70 | ..... | ..... |
| St. Louis..... | 768,630 | ..... | 86 | 156 | 233 | 237 | 229 | 228 | ..... | ..... |

¹ As reported to the U. S. Public Health Service and checked with figures published by the Bureau of the Census.

Deaths per 100,000 of Population from Influenza and Pneumonia (All Forms) for Corresponding Weeks After the Beginning of the 1918 Epidemic, Compared for Large Cities.¹

| City. | Population. | Week preceding epidemic. | Week of epidemic. | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|
| | | | First. | Second. | Third. | Fourth. | Fifth. | Sixth. | Seventh. | Eighth. |
| Philadelphia.... | 1,735,514 | 4.4 | 40.7 | 151.8 | 264.9 | 174.1 | 69.3 | 21.6 | 9.5 | ..... |
| Baltimore..... | 594,637 | 3.2 | 19.7 | 94.6 | 278.7 | 180.5 | 66.8 | 24.7 | 8.6 | ..... |
| New Orleans.... | 377,010 | 7.7 | 38.2 | 165.5 | 180.8 | 88.4 | 41.9 | 20.2 | ..... | ..... |
| Washington.... | 370,000 | ..... | 10.3 | 48.9 | 147.9 | 163.8 | 100.5 | 41.6 | 14.9 | 11.4 |
| Nashville..... | 118,136 | 4.2 | 109.2 | 163.4 | 107.6 | 45.7 | 44.9 | 12.7 | ..... | ..... |
| Boston..... | 767,813 | 6.0 | 34.5 | 101.0 | 158.4 | 133.9 | 76.7 | 16.4 | 17.9 | 9.9 |
| San Francisco... | 471,023 | 4.0 | 27.6 | 117.2 | 156.6 | 87.9 | 42.0 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Fall River.... | 123,828 | 6.9 | 15.4 | 74.7 | 154.8 | 147.9 | 74.8 | 30.8 | 18.5 | 10.8 |
| Richmond..... | 158,702 | 2.5 | 25.8 | 82.6 | 111.5 | 80.7 | 44.7 | 17.6 | 14.5 | ..... |
| Lowell..... | 114,366 | 7.0 | 28.0 | 81.3 | 123.3 | 101.4 | 73.4 | 26.2 | 7.0 | 7.0 |
| Cambridge..... | 114,273 | 3.5 | 91.9 | 122.5 | 100.6 | 55.1 | 18.4 | 16.6 | 4.4 | 7.9 |
| New Haven..... | 152,275 | 1.3 | 9.9 | 23.6 | 50.6 | 99.8 | 120.2 | 110.3 | 53.8 | 31.5 |
| Memphis..... | 151,877 | ..... | 52.6 | 119.8 | 109.4 | 46.7 | 19.1 | 11.2 | ..... | ..... |
| Dayton..... | 128,939 | 3.9 | 24.1 | 103.9 | 105.3 | 89.2 | 51.9 | 15.3 | ..... | ..... |
| Oakland..... | 203,405 | 1.5 | 8.7 | 20.7 | 66.8 | 114.7 | 73.0 | 26.6 | ..... | ..... |
| Cleveland..... | 692,279 | 5.8 | 24.3 | 65.4 | 98.5 | 75.7 | 57.7 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Chicago..... | 2,547,201 | 3.6 | 16.4 | 41.2 | 82.7 | 92.9 | 57.7 | 28.9 | 15.3 | ..... |
| New York..... | 5,737,492 | 3.3 | 12.8 | 37.0 | 73.9 | 90.8 | 76.8 | 37.7 | 18.3 | ..... |
| Omaha..... | 177,777 | 3.9 | 38.2 | 90.0 | 82.7 | 52.8 | 65.9 | 27.0 | ..... | ..... |
| Rochester..... | 261,714 | 2.3 | 13.6 | 38.6 | 80.0 | 79.0 | 33.3 | 17.4 | ..... | ..... |
| Louisville..... | 240,808 | 5.8 | 38.2 | 74.8 | 75.2 | 28.7 | 24.1 | 19.0 | ..... | ..... |
| Birmingham.... | 187,716 | 2.6 | 9.0 | 32.2 | 58.0 | 70.1 | 44.8 | 24.2 | 24.2 | ..... |
| Kansas City.... | 305,816 | 3.3 | 12.1 | 31.4 | 55.0 | 63.1 | 64.4 | 45.1 | 23.1 | ..... |
| Denver..... | 238,439 | 7.1 | 22.0 | 51.8 | 54.8 | 40.2 | 37.6 | 25.3 | ..... | ..... |
| Columbus..... | 220,135 | 4.5 | 12.7 | 33.2 | 53.1 | 42.7 | 22.7 | 16.4 | ..... | ..... |
| Atlanta..... | 196,144 | 3.6 | 15.3 | 41.3 | 51.5 | 23.0 | 17.3 | 16.3 | ..... | ..... |
| Indianapolis.... | 283,622 | 3.5 | 8.5 | 16.2 | 45.1 | 40.6 | 29.6 | 20.4 | ..... | ..... |
| Milwaukee..... | 445,008 | 3.4 | 15.5 | 25.4 | 39.3 | 28.1 | 21.3 | 15.7 | ..... | ..... |
| St. Louis..... | 768,630 | ..... | 11.2 | 20.3 | 30.3 | 33.5 | 29.8 | 29.7 | ..... | ..... |

¹ As reported to the United States Public Health Service and checked with figures published by the Bureau of the Census.

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA AMONG AMERICAN SOLDIERS ABROAD.

Students of the present epidemic of influenza will undoubtedly be interested in the following account of influenza among the troops of the American Expeditionary Forces. This is reproduced from Weekly Bulletin No. 28, issued by the office of the chief surgeon, American Expeditionary Forces, October 21, 1918.

Influenza, Pneumonia, Meningitis.

"During the past two months a second wave of severe influenza infection has swept over France and has spread to all the countries of Europe in about equal force. In the United States the onset of the epidemic was, as is usually the case with pandemics of influenza, about three weeks later than in London and Paris. The first and rather benign phase of the infection, it will be remembered, began in the middle of April and had largely disappeared in the American Expeditionary Forces by the end of July. The second phase, which has not yet reached its maximum incidence, has been characterized by a much higher percentage of initially severe cases and particularly